

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03732 01 OF 02 102258Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /105 W
-----102344Z 124259 /14

O 102214Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3418
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 03732

EO 11652: N/A/
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, SENV, CA
SUBJECT: REACTION TO BERGER REPORT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. REACTION IN CANADA TO BERGER REPORT HAS BEEN LARGELY PREDICTABLE IN NATURE AND MASSIVE IN VOLUME. NATIVE PEOPLES, WITH EXCEPTION OF METIS, HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED THE REPORT; METIS SAY IT CONDEMNS NATIVES TO 10 MORE YEARS ON WELFARE; WHITE PEOPLE OF NORTH HAVE CRITICIZED IT; OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ENDORSED IT WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM AND HAVE CALLED FOR A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO STUDY IT; GOC HAS RESERVED JUDGMENT PENDING NEB AND OTHER REPORTS. PRESS HAS GIVEN MAJOR COVERAGE WITH PRIME TIME TV DEVOTED TO SPECIALS, AND NEWSPAPERS GIVING FRONTPAGE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO STORIES ON REPORT. EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MIXED WITH SOME POINTING OUT NEED TO WEIGH INTERESTS OF SOUTHERN CANADA IN THE BALANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS: AS EXPECTED, THE ISSUANCE OF THE BERGER REPORT ON MAY 9 HAS PROMPTED ENORMOUS PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENT.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03732 01 OF 02 102258Z

FACTUAL NEWS REPORTS HAVE DOMINATED FRONT PAGES, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON BERGER'S PROPOSED 10-YEAR DELAY IN A MACKENZIE VALLEY ROUTE AND TOTAL PROHIBITION ON NORTHERN YUKON ROUTE. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON MONDAY MAY 9 HEADLINED "BERGER PROPOSES A 10-YEAR DELAY IN PIPELINE DOWN MACKENZIE VALLEY -- REPORT COULD KILL US-CANADIAN PROJECT". ON TUESDAY, IT HEADLINED "PC, NDP HEADS SUPPORT

DELAY ON GAS PIPELINE -- SOME NATIVE LEADERS SEEK LONGER POSTPONEMENT". ON TUESDAY, MONTREAL GAZETTE ALSO FOCUSED ON REACTIONS BY HEADLINING "10-YEAR DELAY IS ALL WRONG: PIPELINE FIRM". IT ALSO FRONTPAGED A HUMAN INTEREST STORY REPORTING THAT BERGER "TOOK JUST 2 WEEKS OFF DURING 300 DAYS ON THE ROAD". OTTAWA CITIZEN AND OTTAWA JOURNAL RAN SIMILAR STORIES.

3. TV AND RADIO COVERAGE HAS BEEN EQUALLY EXTENSIVE. CBC STARTED ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH A "SPECIAL" REPORTING ON BERGER'S WORK DURING PAST THREE YEARS. ON MONDAY NIGHT IT HAD ANOTHER "SPECIAL" ON BERGER'S FINDINGS AND ON GENERAL REACTIONS TO REPORT. DURING LATTER PROGRAM, CBC SKIPPED FROM TOWNHALL MEETING IN INUVIK TO CONGRESSIONAL REACTION IN WASHINGTON, TO INTERVIEWS WITH PIPELINE EXECUTIVES, TO STATEMENTS BY GOC LEADERS AND TO NATIVE PEOPLES' REACTIONS IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES. CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD ABIDE BY CANADIAN DECISION WAS SHOWN, AS WAS SENATOR STEVENS' COMMENT THAT BERGER REPORT WAS A BIG BOOST TO EL PASO ROUTE.

4. OTHER TV STATIONS ALSO PLAYED STORY HEAVILY. GLOBAL TV DEVOTED GOOD PORTION OF ITS EVENING NEWS BROADCAST TO REPORT ON BERGER RECOMMENDATIONS AND ON REACTIONS THERETO. GLOBAL'S COMMENTATOR, PETER DESBARATS, PROVIDED SOBER COMMENTARY: BERGER REPORT AN EMOTIONAL "GOOD-GUY" TYPE OF REPORT WHICH WOULD BE HARD TO REFUTE. HOWEVER, DESBARATS POINTED OUT THAT LOTS OF OTHER FACTORS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AND HE WOULD RESERVE FINAL JUDGMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03732 01 OF 02 102258Z

UNTIL HE WAS TOLD "JUST HOW MUCH IMPLEMENTATION OF JUSTICE BERGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD COST CANADIAN CITIZEN". CTV PROVIDED EXTENSIVE NEWS REPORTS BUT DID NOT OFFER COMMENTARY.

5. POLITICAL LEADERS: REACTION OF POLITICIANS WAS ALSO WIDELY REPORTED. CONSERVATIVE PARTY OPPOSITION LEADER JOE CLARK FOCUSED ON BERGER REPORT DURING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION PERIOD. HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO ESTABLISH A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO STUDY BERGER REPORT. ACTING PRIME MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN FIRMLY REJECTED SUCH A PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH HE DID GIVE QUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT TO SOME SORT OF DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. MR. MACEACHEN SAID "ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, I AM QUITE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THAT THERE WILL BE A DEBATE. I HAVE NOT DECIDED THE LENGTH OF THE DEBATE. I INVITE OTHER PARTIES PERHAPS TO CONTRIBUTE SOME OF THEIR ALLOTTED DAYS SO THAT THE DEBATE CAN BE USEFUL AND BROAD ENOUGH TO PROVIDE INPUT FROM ALL HONORABLE MEMBERS IN THE

HOUSE".

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, CLARK'S REACTION OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT PROVIDED THE ONLY MILD SURPRISE. IN LOW KEY STATEMENT, CLARK SUPPORTED 10-YEAR MORATORIUM, SAYING: "I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO CONTEST . . . EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROCEED . . . THE 10 YEAR DELAY APPEARS . . . TO BE A SENSIBLE ONE". HE ALSO CONCLUDED: ". . . IT'S VERY CLEAR THAT THE GAS ARCTIC PROPOSED IS NOT GOING TO BE A VIABLE PROPOSAL".

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03732 02 OF 02 102236Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /105 W
-----102344Z 123751 /14

O 102214Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3419
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 03732

7. NDP LEADER ED BROADBENT SIMILARLY SUPPORTED PARLIAMENT-ARY STUDY ALTHOUGH HE WENT A LITTLE FARTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS ALCAN ROUTE SHOULD ALSO BE QUESTIONED.

8. GOC REACTION: GOC REACTION PREDICTABLE, AS IT PRAISED JUSTICE BERGER'S EFFORT BUT REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL ON SUBSTANCE. INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS MINISTER WARREN ALLMAND SAID IN A STATEMENT, "MR. JUSTICE BERGER HAS PRODUCED AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE . . . THE REPORT WILL BE GIVEN THE MOST CAREFUL AND SERIOUS EXAMINATION . . . NO DECISION CAN BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT RECEIVES THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD. . ." HE CONCLUDES BY SAYING ". . . COMMENTARY ON THE SUBSTANCE OF JUSTICE BERGER'S REPORT WOULD BE PREMATURE".

9. OTHER: ARCTIC GAS PRESIDENT VERNE HORTE WAS WIDELY INTERVIEWED ON TV AND MUCH QUOTED IN THE PRESS REJECTING BERGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST. ALCAN PRESIDENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, PRAISED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03732 02 OF 02 102236Z

BERGER REPORT. DOME PETROLEUM PRESIDENT CONJECTURED THAT REPORT COULD "DEAL FATAL BLOW TO OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION IN THE BEAUFORT SEA". METIS ASSOCIATION PREDICTED THAT BERGER REPORT MEANT TEN MORE YEARS OF "WELFARE STATE" IN THE NORTH, WHILE OTHER NATIVE PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIVES ACCLAIMED REPORT AS FIRST EVIDENCE THAT THE WHITE MAN WOULD LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS. HOWEVER, THEY GENERALLY CAUTIOUSLY ADDED THAT THE BATTLE WAS NOT YET WON. NORTHERN WHITES, PARTICULARLY IN INUVIK AREA, LAMENTED REPORT AS THEY POINTED OUT LACK OF JOBS AND POOR ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NORTH DROVE PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE AREA OR ON TO WELFARE AND LOSS OF PIPELINE WOULD HASTEN DECLINE OF NORTH.

10. EDITORIAL COMMENT: FINALLY, EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE CONSTRAINED. GLOBE AND MAIL IN TUESDAY LEAD EDITORIAL DISCUSSED "IMPACT OF A PIPELINE" BUT POINTED OUT THAT BERGER REPORT "... IS NOT THE LAST WORD. IF MR. BERGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FOLLOWED, SOUTHERN CANADA -- WHERE THE WELFARE OF MILLIONS NOT THOUSANDS MUST BE CONSIDERED -- WOULD NOT HAVE EARLY ACCESS TO NORTHERN NATURAL GAS ... AT THIS STAGE WE HAVE ONLY A PART OF EVEN MR. BERGER'S FACTS. IT IS NOT A TIME FOR DECISIONS".

11. GLOBE AND MAIL COLUMNIST GEOFFREY STEVENS CHOSE TO FOCUS ON U.S. REACTION AND CONCLUDED, "IF OTTAWA APPROVED THE ALCAN ROUTE IT WOULD BE CREATING A WHOLE HOST OF PROBLEMS IN THE CANADIAN NORTH IN RETURN FOR THE DUBIOUS PRIVILEGE OF ALLOWING THE AMERICANS TO TRANSPORT THEIR GAS ACROSS OUR COUNTRY. TO REJECT THE ALCAN ROUTE WOULD BE TO INVITE THE WRATH OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE AMERICANS? THERE IS NEVER AN EASY ANSWER".

12. MONTREAL GAZETTE COLUMNIST DON MCGILLIVRAY FOCUSED ON DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN CANADA AND SAID REPORT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03732 02 OF 02 102236Z

WOULD "HAVE TO BE JUDGED AGAINST THE HARSH BACKGROUND OF

A FALTERING ECONOMY, RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, STAGNANT INVESTMENT, AND A DEEP DEFICIT. . . COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLES AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH MUST BE BALANCED AGAINST COMPASSION FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN THE SOUTH".

13. FINALLY, CHARLES LYNCH, IN HIS SYNDICATED COLUMN ENTITLED "CRY FROM THE HEART IN BERGER REPORT", ARGUED THAT BERGER REPORT "FOLLOWS TWO CONSISTENT LINES -- UNCRITICAL ACCEPTANCE OF NATIVE VIEWPOINTS, AND HARDLINE CRITICISM OF THE METHODS AND MOTIVES OF CANADIAN WHITE SOCIETY". HE CONCLUDES BY SAYING "BERGER'S SAINTHOOD SEEMS ASSURED, AS DOES HIS MARTYRDOM". ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CONSTRUCTION, PARTY LINE, PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM PIPELINES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA03732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1204
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770574/aaaaclyk.tel
Line Count: 236
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 140d4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2582606
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO BERGER REPORT
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, SENV, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/140d4597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009